

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 078046

O 271804Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3248

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3928

EXDIS

PARIS FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: CSCE: FURTHER NATO CAUCUS DECISION ON TACTICS FOR GLOBAL

INITIATIVE ON HUMAN CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

REF: A. GENEVA 3772

B. GENEVA 3835

C. SECTO 2002

1. AFTER PROBING SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD WESTERN GLOBAL
INITIATIVE ON HUMAN CONTACTS AND INFORMATION IN NUMEROUS
BILATERAL CONTACTS, NATO CAUCUS DECIDED MAY 27 THAT IT
WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS ON LONG SOVIET PROPOSED
LIST OF CHANGES, SINCE SUCH A MOVE WOULD PLACE WEST IN UN-
ACCEPTABLY DISADVANTAGEOUS NEGOTIATING POSITION. CAUCUS WAS
UNITED IN DECIDING THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DRAMATIC WITHDRAWAL
OF GLOBAL INITIATIVE PAPER, AND THAT ONLY REASONABLE COURSE
OF ACTION TO TAKE IN THIS SITUATION WOULD BE TO SET IT ASIDE,
AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, AND TO RETURN TO SUBJECT-
BY -SUBJECT NEGOTIATIONS ON BASIS OF PREVIOUS ALLIED
POSITIONS. ALLIES WILL CONVEY THIS DECISION TO SOVIETS
BY THEIR ACTIONS AT NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS, BEGINNING
MAY 28.

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2. HOPE OF ALLIED GROUP IS THAT SOVIETS WILL UNDERSTAND WEST MEANS BUSINESS, AND WILL SEEK TO RETURN TO GLOBAL INITIATIVE AT A LATER DATE, ON TERMS WHICH MAY BE MORE FAVORABLE TO THE WEST. SINCE SITUATION IS VERY FLUID, WITH SOVIETS PRESSING FOR OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS AND NEUTRALS SEEKING PROCEDURAL SOLUTIONS, FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS COULD TAKE PLACE IN A VERY SHORT TIME, AND POSSIBILITY IS STILL OPEN FOR SOVIETS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GLOBAL INITIATIVE WHEN THEY ARE READY TO MAKE A REASONABLE OFFER. WE BELIEVE SOVIETS MAY NOW BE LOOKING FOR A FACE-SAVING DEVICE TO ALLOW NEGOTIATIONS TO BEGIN ON GLOBAL INITIATIVE. WHILE ALLIES ARE NOT PREPARED TO SACRIFICE SUBSTANTIVE WESTERN POSITIONS TO SAVE THE SOVIETS' FACE, RETURN TO SUBJECT-BY-SUBJECT NEGOTIATIONS MAY PROVIDE NEW OPENINGS FOR PROCEDURAL FACE-SAVERS, AND THUS BRING FOCUS OF NEGOTIATIONS BACK TO GLOBAL INITIATIVE. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, INFORMATION MEDIA, NEGOTIATIONS, SOCIAL CHANGE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAY 1975
Decapton Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA03928
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750185-0202
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750518/aaaaaplu.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 GENEVA 3772
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CSCE: FURTHER NATO CAUCUS DECISION ON TACTICS FOR GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON HUMAN CONTACTS AND INFORMATION
TAGS: PFOR, XG, UR, CSCE, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006